

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-11 are all the claims pending in the application. New claims 12-16 are added by the present Amendment to provide alternative embodiments of the present invention.

Claims 1-11 are objected to under 37 C.F.R. § 1.75 for allegedly failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention.

Claim 7 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by Ishimura et al. (US 6,424,615).

Claims 1-6 have been indicated as being allowable, if rewritten to overcome the objection under 37 C.F.R. § 1.75. Claims 8-11 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims and rewritten to overcome the objection.

The amendments to the claims are believed to fully address and overcome the claim objections. Claim 1, for example, is amended as suggested by the Examiner on page 2 of the Office Action.

Regarding claim 7, Applicants submit that Ishimura et al. fail to teach or suggest all of the limitations of amended claim 7. In particular, the reference does not disclose the recording control data recording unit, as claimed. The Examiner cites FIGS. 1, 14, and 19, but these figures do not disclose or suggest a recording control data recording unit configured to record a recording control data according to the simple format, whose amount is smaller as compared to a predetermined recording control data according to the standard format, when the means for recording the information records information on the information recording medium according to the simple format. Instead, the cited figures merely show plan views of optical disks showing a

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division of the recording surface in volumes. Applicants respectfully submit that such a disclosure does not correspond to the specific limitations of the aforementioned feature of claim 7. Therefore, Applicants submit that claim 7 is not anticipated by Ishimura et al.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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